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DE RUEHAH #1305 2741224
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
P 301224Z SEP 08
FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1639
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4349
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 2161
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 2026
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2597
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEHVEN/USMISSION USOSCE 2935
RUEHGV/USMISSION GENEVA 1440

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001305

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN
COMMERCE FOR HEUPER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/30/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EAIR](#) [ETRD](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: TURKMEN AIRLINES CHAIRMAN
REPRIMANDED FOR SHORTCOMINGS, INCLUDING BREAKAGE ON THE
PRESIDENTIAL PLANE AND THE LACK OF PILOTS FOR NEW CORPORATE
JETS

REF: ASHGABAT 1079

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) The September 26 Neytralniy Turkmenistan" newspaper reported that the Chairman of Turkmen Airlines, Gurbanyaz Tirkishov, was severely reprimanded in a presidential decree for shortcomings regarding the training of technical-engineering personnel on servicing modern aircraft and for the untimely fulfillment of assignments of the President of Turkmenistan. According to the local Amcit representative for Boeing, this all stems from incidents involving presidential and ministerial planes. Recently, the Turkmenistan government purchased corporate jets for ministerial travel (reftel). However, the planes arrived without trained pilots or full-service contracts. The Boeing rep said one poor fellow had to "operate the brake" while the plane was towed to another part of the airport. In other incidents, items were broken on the presidential plane and those workmen or others deemed responsible were charged the cost of the broken part, often hundreds of times their annual salary. Now, according to the Boeing rep, people are afraid to work on the presidential plane, as a crewmember or a repair person. They fear the repercussions of being blamed for breakage.

¶2. (C) COMMENT: Turkmenistan continues to be an initiative-challenged society, and the above examples illustrate why. Instead of trying to figure out why problems or breakage occur and build in mechanisms to avoid issues in the future, officials use shame and blame. Until initiative is rewarded, and pride in accomplishment is a greater motivator than fear, Turkmenistan will continue to face obstacles on the road to modernizing its society. END COMMENT.
CURRAN